

species, believing the *intermedius* of continental authors to be something different — an opinion now seen to be untenable.

Donisthorpe did not regard the aedeagus of his species as diagnostic, remarking that “it differs little, except in proportion to size, in all three”. This however, is not the case. The extraordinarily large aedeagus of *batychnus* is somewhere about 20 times greater in area than the very small narrow organ of *pusillus*, yet the beetle itself is nowhere near 20 times as large! That of *intermedius* is less than halfway between these extremes and of a much broader, more rounded form than in *pusillus* (the species more likely to be confused with *intermedius*) and similar to that of *formicetorum* Märk.; it is thus quite determinative. Even more so is the male 6th sternite, the hind margin of which is broadly and deeply excavate, almost in the form of an open \wedge with the vertex varying from an angle to a smooth curve, and bearing long hairs towards the corners. In the other species (especially *pusillus*) the excavation is very much shallower and with at most an even fringe of very short hairs. Figures will be found e.g. in Lohse (1964: 159) or Hansen (1952: 9).

It is of interest to note that in mid-Europe *intermedius* is the commonest *Leptacinus* overall, according to Lohse (p.160); whilst in Britain *pusillus* is easily the commonest. The former species when better known will almost surely prove widespread, though possibly very local. I have not found it elsewhere than as above, but have a female from G.H. Ashe labelled without query as *intermedius* (Hartlebury, Worcs, iii.31) — I believe correctly, but cannot be certain. At present only two definite records outside Windsor can be given: Mr Colin Johnson took it in a haystack at Broadbottom, Cheshire, together with *pusillus*, about 20 years ago or more; and my friend Prof. J.A. Owen has a series from a compost heap in the garden of Tooting Hospital, S.W. London, taken in January 1975, and checked from two males. Donisthorpe (p.270) mentions “a good series” placed as “*linearis* var.” in the D. Sharp collection, but does not give the locality.

References

- Donisthorpe, H.StJ.K., 1936. *Leptacinus intermedius* n.sp. (Col.: Staphylinidae), a beetle new to science. *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* 72: 269-270 & Pl. V.
 Hansen, V., 1952. *Danmarks Fauna* 58: *Biller* 16 (Rovbiller 2). Kobenhavn.
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Epermenia insecurella (Staint) (Lep.: Epermeniidae) in Wiltshire

Whilst on a field visit to the central area of the Salisbury Plain Army Training Area on 3rd June 1990, Dr Langmaid suggested that a search be made of patches of *Thesium humifusum* (Bastard Toadflax) for *Epermenia insecurella*. The first site for the plant drew a blank, mainly due to the